

Message Text

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13-11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 A-01

NEA-10 /070 W

----- 100637

R 291442Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9521

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CZ LE US

SUBJECT: PRESS ATTACK ON AMBASSADOR GODLEY

1. POISON PEN OF DUSAN ROVENSKY, IN WHAT MUST BE CONSIDERED UNUSUALLY OBJECTIONABLE ARTICLE (EVEN FOR HIM), ATTEMPTS IN JANAURY 29 RUDE PRAVO TO LAY PRESENT SITUATION IN LEBANON AT DOOR OF CIA, AND "IMPERIALIST FORCES, INTERNAL LEBANESE REACTION AND ZIONISM." WORKING TOGETHER, ISRAEL AND CIA WORKED OUT PLAN TO DISRUPT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE AND INSPIRE "FRATRICIDAL FIGHTING." CIA WAS ALLEGED TO HAVE RECRUITED MERCENARIES IN FRG AND FRANCE, AND TO HAVE SUPPLIED WEAPONS AND "MANY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS" TO FALANGISTS.

2. PREDICTABLE AS THESE CHARGES MIGHT BE, BURDEN OF ARTICLE REPRESENTS, WE FEEL, DEPARTURE FROM EVEN RUDE PRAVO'S UNDISTINGUISHED STANDARDS. FULLY TWO-THIRDS OF ARTICLE IS DEVOTED TO PERSONAL ATTACK ON AMBASSADOR G. MCMURTRIE GODLEY (CONSISTENTLY MISPELLED AS GOODLEY). PURPORTING TO LINK AMBASSADOR GODLEY, THROUGH SERVICE WITH OSS, TO CIA, ARTICLE NOTES SERVICE IN LEOPOLDVILLE IN EARLY 60'S, AND IN LAOS WHERE, "UNDER HIS COMMAND, CIA FORMED 30,000 MAN ARMY." ROVENSKY CONCLUDES THAT GODLEY HAS "THOUSANDS OF DEAD WEIGHTING ON HIS CONSCIENCE."

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3. "MAJOR LEBANESE POLITICIAN" IS QUOTED AS SAYING UPON

GODLEY'S ARRIVAL IN BEIRUT, "IF ANYTHING HAPPENS IN
LEBANON, GODLEY WILL CERTAINLY HAVE HIS FINGERS IN IT."
ROVENSKY THEN STATES THAT AMBASSADOR "DID EVERYTHING IN
HIS POWER TO SHARPEN THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY."

4. EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED APPOINTMENT
AT MFA TO PROTEST THIS ARTICLE.
PERRY

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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